

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A portable computer, comprising:
  - a power switch;
  - an optical device drive;
  - an audio signal processing unit processing the audio data of a disk inserted into the optical device drive; and
  - an inputting unit comprising a plurality of selection buttons for inputting movement and selection of a pointing cursor,
    - wherein each selection button of the inputting unit has a selection inputting function in response to a plurality of operations of the optical device drive,
    - wherein the audio signal processing unit is supplied with assistant power while system power is turned off, and
    - wherein the audio signal processing unit controls the optical device drive based on selection by the selection button as inputted.
2. The computer according to claim 1, wherein the inputting unit further comprises:
  - a plurality of inputting button switches generating selection signals when the respective selection buttons are pressed; and
  - a touch pad provided with a touch pad IC unit generating a pointing signal in response to the selection signal as generated by the plurality of inputting button switches.
3. The computer according to claim 2, further comprising a bus switching unit supplying the selection signal as generated by the inputting button switches based on an "ON" or "OFF" signal of the power switch into either of the touch pad IC unit or the audio signal processing unit.
4. The computer according to claim 3, wherein the bus switching unit supplies the selection signal as generated in the inputting button switches based on the "ON" signal of the power switch to the touch pad IC unit.

5. The computer according to claim 3, wherein the bus switching unit supplies the selection signal as generated by the inputting button switches based on the "OFF" signal of the power switch to the audio signal processing unit.

6. The computer according to claim 3, further comprising a microcomputer to turn on or off power supplied to the touch pad IC unit based on the "ON" or "OFF" signal of the power switch.

7. The computer according to claim 6, wherein the microcomputer supplies the assistant power to the audio signal processing unit when the selection signal is generated by pressing the selection button while the system power is turned off.

8. A computer having an optical device driver, comprising:  
a power switch to enable or disable system power;  
a plurality of input button switches to generate a signal based on a user input;  
a touch pad control unit to control movement of a pointing cursor; and  
a bus switching unit to supply the signal to the optical device driver to control an optical device if the system power is disabled, or to supply the signal to the touch pad control unit if the system power is enabled.

9. The computer of claim 8, further comprising:  
a plurality of input buttons to operate the plurality of input button switches.

10. The computer of claim 8, wherein the optical device driver controls a CD-ROM drive that plays audio compact discs (CDs).

11. The computer of claim 10, wherein the signal is used to input playback instructions for the audio CDs when the signal is supplied to the optical device driver.

12. The computer of claim 8, wherein the optical device driver controls a DVD drive that plays digital versatile discs (DVDs).

13. The computer of claim 12, wherein the signal is used to input playback

instructions for the DVDs when the signal is supplied to the optical device driver.

14. A method, comprising:  
determining whether system power has been enabled or disabled via a power switch;  
generating a signal based on a user input via a plurality of input button switches; and  
supplying the signal to an optical device driver to control an optical device if the system power is disabled, and supplying the signal to a touch pad control unit to control movement of a pointing cursor if the system power is enabled.
15. The method of claim 14, wherein the optical device driver controls a CD-ROM drive that is capable of playing audio compact discs (CDs).
16. The method of claim 15, wherein the signal is used to input playback instructions for the audio CDs when the signal is supplied to the optical device driver.
17. The method of claim 14, wherein the optical device driver controls a DVD drive that is capable of playing digital versatile discs (DVDs).
18. The method of claim 17, wherein the signal is used to input playback instructions for the DVDs when the signal is supplied to the optical device driver.
19. A machine-readable medium that provides instructions, which, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising:  
determining whether system power has been enabled or disabled via a power switch;  
generating a signal based on a user input via a plurality of input button switches; and  
supplying the signal to an optical device driver to control an optical device if the system power is disabled, and supplying the signal to a touch pad control unit to control movement of a pointing cursor if the system power is enabled.
20. The machine-readable medium of claim 19, wherein the optical device driver controls a CD-ROM drive to play audio compact discs (CDs).
21. The machine-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the signal used to input

playback instructions for the audio CDs when the signal is supplied to the optical device driver.